



# Preservation News

WICHITA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Wichita County Archives

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[wchitacountyhistorical.commission.org/](http://wchitacountyhistorical.commission.org/)

Hours of Operation:  
Wednesday, Thursday, and  
Friday

10:00am - 12:00pm &  
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Wichita County Texas  
Archives is on [Facebook](#)

## Program Remembering Don Burkman

### MEETING

12:00 Noon - 1:00pm

#### AGENDA FOR MEETING:

1. Call to Order
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Program
4. Business
5. Adjourn

Volume CCLXXXII December 7, 2023

Becky Trammell, Editor

## From the Desk of Robert Palmer, Commission Chair

There is great excitement about the coming Texas Historical Marker honoring Jimmie Kolp. She was a Wichita County legend, friend to many famous people, uniquely talented for a woman of her time, sophisticated, and the adjectives describing her go on and on. She was more than all that to the people of the little oil field town of Electra, Texas. It is an amazing story, how these hard working people viewed her. They all knew who she was, from the youngest to the oldest.

I vividly recall being on the playground of Thompson Ward Elementary watching an airplane fly over. Immediately, there was great discussion about, "Was that Jimmie Kolp's airplane?" Those students knew. Many had ridden with their parents to her runway and hangar west of Electra to watch "Fly Ins." She would invite her flying friends to fly to her airport, ride to her house in provided Cadillacs, and enjoy a time of stories and refreshments. She was a well known hostess. Some locals were hired to serve the guests and they told all their friends about what it was like. The students knew her Cessna airplane. Many older residents remembered her bi-wing airplane her husband had bought her early in their marriage. Local historians actually found the plane several years ago in Louisiana and talked about buying it until they found out the price was in excess of a half a million dollars. I never talked to anyone who saw the Rolls Royce her husband supposedly bought her on their wedding day.

Her husband was considerably older than her and wealthy. He originally was manager of the Waggoner Refinery west of Electra. He had added to his wealth by buying and selling oil properties, a common way to get very wealthy at that time. Her father was a doctor and she did not grow up worried about money. Her story will be well told at the marker dedication, but how did the people who saw her every day view her?

I actually interviewed the young gentleman who was involved in the famous water bottle story. During the height of the Depression, on a very hot day, she called the local supermarket, Hogles Modern Market. She told the owner Lee Hogle she wanted five, five gallon bottles of drinking water delivered to her house, the two story stucco mansion built for Electra Waggoner. This was at a time when Electra's water came from the small lake on China Creek, near Punkin Center. The

watershed was the oil fields northwest of Electra. Mr. Hogle told the young high school student working at his store to take those bottles to Mrs. Kolp and put the water wherever she wanted it. When he arrived, she told him to take it upstairs and put it in the bathtub. He was picturing her dipping the water out of the tub, when she said, "I'm not about to take a bath in the water that's coming through these pipes."

Donald Givens, a well known Electra resident and lifelong oil field employee, told me once that, if he ever heard someone criticizing Mrs. Kolp, he would set them straight. After the death of her husband, she had her office on the second floor of The Bank, the former headquarters for the Texas Company. She called Donald one day and asked why he had never bought the open land next to his house. He replied he couldn't afford it. She asked him, "Well, what can you afford?" He replied, "Actually, no more than ten dollars a month." She said, "Come see me." When he went, they signed a note. At that time, it was custom to make note payments in person. The first of every month, he went to her office and made the payment. She always asked him about his family.

She once had a friend who owned a Piper Cub to come to her airport. She wanted Electra people to experience flying. For five dollars he would take you up, fly over the Waggoner Whiteface Ranch, then over Lake Diversion, then over the city of Electra. I was twelve years old and yes, I took a flight.

In her years, she lived in a very modern house on the north end of Crescent Street, a two block long street. I was a newly married, young teacher who lived on the far end of South Crescent. Many times, when I left at 6:00 am to drive my school bus route, I would meet her where North and South Crescent streets met. She would be in her turquoise Cadillac, with her ever present long cigarette holder in her hand. She always waved!

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**Wichita County Archive News - November 2023 - Monthly Report**

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- Jack Gilmore and Shirley Banks came to the Archives scan old pictures of Iowa Park. Shirley brought a small scanner that made quick work. Glad to spare our pictures.
  - Elizabeth Turlington brought two Friendship Quilts into the Archives. In the process of preserving them, I remembered there were five Eastside Quilts that needed airing out --an event that should happen every quarter. All seven quilts are magnificent and properly stored away.
  - I found a box of photographs that had started accession but not completed. The box was filled of pictures of Sam Houston Elementary school students. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade class of 1949 decided they wanted to have a class reunion every two years. The 40niners, as they were called, continued reunions until 1987.
  - Another forgotten group of boxes belonged to Don Cowan, who was the fantastic choir director at Rider High School. The A Capella choir was top notch. He was proud of his students and they were proud of him. The boxes had many scrapbooks of choir concerts, sheet music, thank you notes, awards and the travel itineraries of Rider's performances in Mexico, Canada, London, and France.
  - School and sports pictures that belonged to the Joe Ward collection have finally found a home in the Archives. Pictures of the Leopards, Coyotes, Spudders, the Irish Lads and early pictures of school buildings and graduation pictures are awesome.
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## Online Newspaper Resources

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Here is a list of online newspapers courtesy of the West Texas Historical Association.

<https://borger.advantage-preservation.com>

### Southwest Collection Newspaper Collection

<http://collections2.swco.ttu.edu/handle/20.500.12255/1;jsessionid=9805186DBB5ED1EFA4568E8DFE9612B0>

### Library of Congress-- Chronicling America

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

### Advantage Archives

<https://fortstockton.advantage-preservation.com/>

<https://burkburnett.advantage-preservation.com/>

<https://xit.advantage-preservation.com/>

(Dalhart)

<https://ttwc.advantage-preservation.com/>

(San Marcos)

<https://comfort.advantage-preservation.com/>

<https://harlingen.advantage-preservation.com/>

<https://brownsville.advantage-preservation.com/>

<https://swishercounty.advantage-preservation.com/>

<https://oldhamcounty.advantage-preservation.com/home>

<https://cranecounty.advantage-preservation.com/>

<https://iraan.advantage-preservation.com/>

(Yearbooks only)

<https://andrews.advantage-preservation.com/>

(Includes Seymour News, Santa Anna, Seagraves)

<https://seymour.advantage-preservation.com/>

<https://wardcounty.advantage-preservation.com/>

(Includes Ft Stockton, The Sandstorm, Loraine Leader, West Texas Journal)

Wichita County Historical Commission

December 7, 2023 Agenda

Call to Order: Robert Palmer

Program: Celebration of the life of Don Burkman

Approval of minutes for October meeting: Sent to all members in newsletter.

Financial Report: Status of Account

Committee Reports:

Program Committee: Douglas James, Chairman

Cemetery Committee: John Yates, Chairman

Website Committee: Becky Trammell/Elizabeth Hawley

Marker Committee: Becky Trammell

Old Business: 10th Cavalry marker replaced.

New Business:

Adjournment:

## Marker Repairs



Sometime in early October, the Tenth Cavalry Historic Marker was struck. The pole was bent and the marker separated from the pole.

Thanks to a gracious donation from Big State Welding - Ricky Ferguson, the marker was repaired. The repair included welding on the aluminum marker and a new pole. If you need welding work, USE BIG STATE WELDING!

The Commission also wants to thank Commissioner Mickey Fincannon and the Precinct #2 staff for re-setting the marker.

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## WCHC Minutes – November 2, 2023

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**Call to order:** Robert Palmer called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

**Attendance: Members:** Carol Rudd, John Yates, Brenda Jarrett, Becky Trammell, Robert Palmer, Douglas James, Katherine Phillips, Shanon Morton, Pam Morgan, Bryce Blair, Joyce James

**Attendance: Guest:** Terri Drake, Marla Sharp, Dorothy Palmer, Elizabeth Palmer, Melba James.

**Program:** Hanaba Welch gave an amusing presentation on the history of Doan's Crossing and the annual May Day Picnic. As the cattle route shifted from the Chisholm Trail to the Western Train, Jonathan Doan's trading post, located on the Red River, was the last place cowboys could get supplies and mail before crossing into Indian Territory and driving the cattle to northern markets. The Doan family, considered to be the first settlers in Wilbarger County, came from Ohio where May Day was celebrated to bid farewell to Winter and welcome Spring. The Texas picnic was held on the first Saturday of May in 1894. After a meager meal of sardines and crackers, the Doan family headed over the hill to celebrate. The picnic is the oldest continuing event in the state of Texas and this year will mark the 141st outing. All are welcome.

**Minutes:** Approval of minutes for October: Katherine Phillips made the motion to accept the minutes and Becky Trammell seconded.

**Old Business:** On Oct. 21 at 1:00pm in Burkburnett, Hardin High School celebrated its 100th Anniversary. They were given a lovely commemorative plaque to display in the school. The next school to be recognized for 100 years is Midwestern State University of Texas. Robert Palmer encouraged the group that if you know of buildings that will be celebrating a 100th anniversary, let him know. As a reminder, each plaque runs approximately \$350 each. Members are encouraged to give generously. Please see Carol Rudd in the Archives to make a donation.

Becky Trammell reported the repair of the 10th Cavalry Creek marker will be ready for pick up next week.

If you know of someone who is interested in being a member of the Historical Commission, have them write a resume about themselves and their interest in history. The resume goes to the Commissioners Court for approval.

**New Business:** No new business

**Committee Reports:** No reporting Committees

**Adjournment:** Pam Morgan made the motion to adjourn at 1:10 pm. and Becky Trammell seconded.

Minutes prepared by Carol A. Rudd

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## Yearly Report

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Every year we submit information to the Texas Historical Commission concerning the activities of the local County Historical Commission. An important part of this report is the number of volunteer hours performed by CHC members. Please submit your volunteer hours at the January meeting.

Museum of North Texas History News



The Museum of North Texas History will have two special days during the Christmas season. Opening on Tuesday, December 19th and Wednesday, December 20th, take some time away from shopping and have family time at the Museum! The Heart of Downtown Model Train exhibit will be running at 11:00am, 1:00pm, and 2:30pm.



Museum Membership Special



Come into the Museum during December and renew your membership or join. You will receive a beautiful ornament, while they last. The ornaments were a gift to the Museum from Mary and Jim Kearby.

